Gabinete de Informação da
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NEWSBRIEFS

EAST TIMOR

IMPRISONMENTS, tortures and arbitrary executions continue to take place in East Timor.

In May and June, in the two largest towns of East Timor, Dili and Baucau, more than 150 Timorese were arrested by the Indonesian troops, suspected of having links with FRETILIN guerrillas, the Pope's visit to East Timor in next October and for making propaganda concerning the Dili Bishop's letter to the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Xavier Peres de Cuellar, which call him to intervene over the decolonization of East Timor.

In this wave of imprisonments, many Timorese students were also arrested in Dili and Baucau while others are chased by Indonesian secret agents. Those Timorese students who are in Bali and Jakarta Universities, were also arrested and chased. Consequently, on June 19th, six of those Timorese students have sought asylum in the Vatican and Japanese ambassies in Jakarta. The students, Carlos da Silva Lopes and Fernando Araújo entered the Japanese embassy, while four others, João dos Reis, Avelino Coehlo da Silva, Agapito Cardoso and Marcelino Garcia da Silva entered the Vatican embassy. Another Timorese Lucas da Costa, chased by the agents, fled from Dili via Denpasar to Jakarta, was arrested on June 15th at the airport of Jakarta.

Both embassies refused to grant political asylum to the mentioned students and three days after, they left the embassies.

In Bali, a Timorese student, Elias Pereira Moniz was arrested on June 8th. So far his whereabout is unknown.

Most of the imprisonments, executions and desappearances ocurred in May and June, were under direct instructions of Prabowo, the commander of the Batallion 328 and son-in-law of President Suharto. Prabowo has set a spying network mainly in Dili, Baucau (East Timor), Denpasar and Jakarta (Indonesia), in order to detect all the clandestine organizations. Timorese and Indonesian transmigrants are used in this spying network. The first are those sympathizers of APODETI (an insignificant pro-integration party) and students in East Timor or in Indonesia, and there are also FRETILIN cadres who were captured by the Indonesian troops and forced to collaborate in this spying network or in the military operations against the FRETILIN guerrillas.

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D I L I . Five Indonesian infantry batallions were landed in Dili's harbour,in June of this year, and have already moved to the eastern and southern parts of the territory to reinforce other batallions operating in the mentioned places, where Timorese units, recruited by the Indonesian army, denominated, "MAKIKIT" and "TAILAKAN", give them support during the military operations against the guerrillas of the national army for liberation,FALINTIL.

BIBILEU . On July 15th,1989 in the southern part of the territory, between the regions of Bibileu and Lacluta, 25 Indonesian soldiers were killed and many other injured by the guerrillas of the Company A of the Unit II.The deads were buried at the cemitery of Baucau while the injured were sent to the military hospital of Dili.

LOS PALOS. A platoon of Engineering Corps, including a lieutenant were all annihilated by the guerrillas on July 25th, 1989, at 8.00p.m. while repairing the road that links Los Palos-Tutuala.The deads were buried at Baucau's cemitery , but the lieutenant, who was sent to Dili to be buried there. All of the military equipment were seized by the guerrillas.

VIQUEQUE . The district command of Viqueque,16.30, has ordered the local people to build defense walls around the villages. Each family has to build five kilometres long of the defense wall, to prevent the guerrillas attacks against the Indonesian military posts, which most of them are among the people's villages.These informations are also confirmed by the Indonesian journalists Bambang Sumantri, who were in East Timor from May 22nd to June 3rd,1989.He also said that when he was in Viqueque people were not allowed to move from 16.00 hours on, from one region to another.